



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/599,647	10/04/2006	Thomas Fischer	P09028US00/RFH	2200
881	7590	12/09/2008	EXAMINER	
STITES & HARBISON PLLC 1199 NORTH FAIRFAX STREET SUITE 900 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				TADAYYON ESLAMI, TABASSOM
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1792				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
12/09/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/599,647	FISCHER, THOMAS	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	TABASSOM TADAYYON ESLAMI	1792	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 July 2008.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,6-11,13 and 14 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1, 6-11, 13-14 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable by J. Devin MacKenzi (U. S. Patent: 7276385, here after 385), further in view of George Roland Hill et al (U. S Patent Application: 2004/0045931, here after Hill).

Claim 1 is rejected. 385 teaches,

Method of producing structures (pattern) from electrical functional materials [abstract lines 3-6], in which in a first method step the substrate is pretreated in such a way that at least a first (between the pattern, where it needs the repair) and a second region (within the pattern) are formed with different surface tensions [column 23 lines 45-55], the first region being configured in the shape of the structure to be produced (repaired area), and in a second method step the electrical functional material is applied to the substrate, the functional material being configured so that it is deposited only in the first region (repaired area) and thus the desired structure is formed from functional material [column 23 lines 53-59]. 385 further teaches in a first method step first of all high surface tension of the substrate is produced [column 23 lines 47] and then the surface tension of the substrate is reduced to a lower value in the first or second area

[column 23 lines 48-52]. 385 does not specifically teach treating the surface to increase the surface tension homogeneously which is higher relative to the normal state of the substrate with corona treatment. Hill teaches a method of producing structures (pattern) from functional materials (ink) [0002, 0006 lines 4-8], in which in the surface of the substrate is treated so different areas with different surface energy appears on the surface [0058, abstract last 3 lines] and depositing the functional materials, thus the desired structure is formed from functional material [0059 lines 8-17]. He further teaches the first method step first of all a homogeneous surface tension of the substrate is produced which is higher relative to the normal state of the substrate and then the surface tension of the substrate is reduced to a lower value in the first or second region [0025, 0026, 0031]. Hill further teaches the production of the homogeneous surface tension takes place by a corona treatment [0023 lines 1-7, 0049]. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to produce a structure of functional material with the method that 385 teaches, where the surface is treated homogeneously to get higher surface energy as Hill teaches, because Hill teaches it is suitable to deposit the electrical functional material on a patterned surface where the surface is treated so the surface energy is higher with respect to the normal status.

Claim 8 is rejected. 385 and Hill teach the limitation of claim 1 and 385 further teaches in the second method step (depositing the functional material) the functional material is applied in a spraying process in which the substrate surface is sprayed with the functional material [column 5 lines 1-5], the functional material being deposited only

in the region with suitable surface (higher) tension because of the different surface tensions [column 23 lines 55-, 64].

2. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over J. Devin MacKenzi (U. S. Patent: 7276385, here after 385) and George Roland Hill et al (U. S Patent Application: 2004/0045931, here after Hill), further in view of Daido Komyoji et al (U. S. Patent Application: 2002/0050061, here after 061).

385 and Hill teach the limitation of claim 1 as discussed above. 385 teaches the patterned surface further comprises low surface energy and high surface energy areas [column 23 lines 45-50], where the functional materials deposited on the surface with high surface energy [column 23 lines 45-64]. Neither of them teaches the deposition of the functional particles is done with a roller. 061 teaches a method of forming a pattern structure [abstract lines 1-3] from the electrical functional materials to make circuit boards [0001]. He further teaches the applying of the particles to the surface is done via a roller [fig. 2]. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to produce a structure of functional material with the method that 385 teaches where the functional material is applied to the surface via a roller as 061 teaches, because 061 teaches it is appropriate to apply the functional material to form a patterned surface with a roller.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over J. Devin MacKenzi (U. S. Patent: 7276385, here after 385) and George Roland Hill et al (U. S Patent Application: 2004/0045931, as applied to claim 1 above, further in view of Philip G. Bentley et al (U. S. Patent Application: 2005/0130397, here after 397). 385 and Hill

teach the limitation of claim 1 as discussed above. 385 teaches the patterned surface further comprises low surface energy and high surface energy areas [column 23 lines 45-50], where the functional materials deposited on the surface with high surface energy [column 23 lines 45-64]. Neither of them teaches the deposition of the functional particles is done by dipping process. 397 teaches a method of forming a pattern on a substrate such as printed circuit boards [0002 1-8]. He further discloses the pattern can be form by a functional liquid (liquid material containing functional material) and by dipping method [0004]. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to produce a structure of functional material with the method that 385 teaches where the functional material is applied to the surface via dipping as 397 teaches, because 397 teaches it is appropriate to apply the functional material to form a patterned surface with dipping it in a functional liquid.

3. Claims 6, 11, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over J. Devin MacKenzi (U. S. Patent: 7276385, here after 385) and George Roland Hill et al (U. S Patent Application: 2004/0045931, here fatter Hill), further in view of Gerald M. Fletcher (U. S. Patent: 3981498, here after Fletcher).

Claim 6 is rejected. 385 and Hill teach the limitation of claim 1 as discussed above. They teach a method of forming a pattern of functional materials by depositing the functional materials on the patterned area with higher surface energy (positive charged). They do not teach the reduction of the surface tension takes place by contact with a contact structure. Fletcher teaches a method of forming patterned structure by creating charged pattern area on substrate by a textured roller [abstract lines 1-3]. He

further teaches the roller with constant charge will apply the charge on the substrate where the features are in contact with the surface. Since the surface energy depended on surface charge, therefore if the charged roller is in opposite charge with the substrate, the surface tension reduces in areas that the roller features touched the substrate. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to produce a structure that 385 teaches where the reduction in surface tension (neutralizing the localized charges) takes place with a roller having features with (opposite) charge, because Fletcher teaches it is appropriate to make a charged pattern on a substrate by a textured roller.

Claims 11, and 13 are rejected. 385 and Hill teach the limitation of claim 1 as discussed above. 385 teaches a means for applying functional material to the substrate (in form of liquid, spray) [column 24 lines 46-35]. 385 does not teach the means for creating a homogeneous surface tension of substrate higher than initial state of the substrate (corona discharge). Hill teaches a method of producing structures (pattern) from functional materials (ink) [0002, 0006 lines 4-8], in which in the surface of the substrate is treated so different areas with different surface energy appears on the surface [0058, abstract last 3 lines] and depositing the functional materials. He teaches a means for creating a homogeneous surface tension of substrate higher than initial state of the substrate (corona discharge) [0025, 0026, and 0031]. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to produce a structure that 385 teaches with creating a homogeneous surface tension of substrate higher than initial state of the substrate (corona discharge) as Hill teaches,

because Hill teaches it is suitable to deposit the electrical functional material on a patterned surface where the surface is treated so the surface energy is higher with respect to the normal status. Neither of them teach a means for reducing the surface tension of the substrate in the first or second region to a lower value. Fletcher teaches a method of forming patterned structure by creating charged pattern area on substrate by a textured roller [abstract lines 1-3]. He further teaches the roller with constant charge will apply the charge on the substrate where the features are in contact with the surface. Since the surface energy depended on surface charge, therefore if the charged roller is in opposite charge with the substrate, the surface tension reduces in areas that the roller features touched the substrate. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to produce a structure that 385 teaches where the reduction in surface tension (neutralizing the localized charges) takes place with a roller having features with (opposite) charge, because Fletcher teaches it is appropriate to make a charged pattern on a substrate by a textured roller.

4. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over J. Devin MacKenzi (U. S. Patent: 7276385, here after 385) and George Roland Hill et al (U. S Patent Application: 2004/0045931, here fatter Hill), further in view of Mark Lelental et al (U. S. Patent: 7033713, here after 713).

Claim 10 is rejected. 385 and Hill teach the limitation of claim 1 as discussed above. They do not specifically teach the functional material is applied in a curtain coating process. 713 teaches a method of forming conductive features on a substrate) [column 4 lines 26-32] and he further teaches the conductive features (particles) applied

to the substrate by curtain coating method [column 15 lines 50-58]. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to produce a structure that 385 teaches where the functional material is applied by curtain coating as 713 teaches, because 713 teaches it is suitable to apply the functional material to a substrate by curtain coating method.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over J. Devin MacKenzi (U. S. Patent: 7276385, here after 385) and George Roland Hill et al (U. S Patent Application: 2004/0045931, here fatter Hill) as applied to claim 1 above, further in view of Virgan G. Shah et al , Micro Fab. Tech. Inc, ICP Printed Circuit (2002, pages 1-5), here after Shah. 385 and Hill teaches the limitation of claim 1. They teach a method of repairing circuit by deposition of electronic functional material on the repair area. They do not teach the electric functional material is conductive polymer. Shah teaches a method of repairing integrated circuit by deposition of an ink comprising conductive polymer [title and abstract]. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to produce a structure that 385 and Hill teaches where the electric functional material is comprising conductive polymer, because Shah teaches it is suitable to repair IC's with ink comprising conductive polymer.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 07/16/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant argues the 385 teaches printing functional material partially on the first and second circuit elements that are already presented on the substrate and

then argues the corona treatment is only functional with respect to the substrate itself and not in the region wherein circuit elements are already present on the substrate. The examiner does not agree. In fact Hill teaches increasing the surface tension first and then reducing it in certain areas (corresponding to the pattern) and the rejection of claim 1 is based on forming the first and second region on a substrate based on Hill method.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TABASSOM TADAYYON ESLAMI whose telephone number is (571)270-1885. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Cleveland can be reached on 571-272-1418. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Tabassom T. Tadayyon-Eslami/

Examiner, Art Unit 1792

/Michael Cleveland/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1792